

## Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**April 13, 2007** 

Contact: Amy Saunders Phone: (304) 558-2021

## Attorney General Darrell McGraw and the Citizen Advisory Committee Attend First Meeting

Charleston – Attorney General Darrell McGraw welcomed members of the Citizen Advisory Committee to their first meeting. Attorney General McGraw charged the committee with strengthening and expanding consumer protection.

"The Citizen Advisory Committee will be part of an outreach effort to build better communication between the Attorney General's office and local communities. We want to pursue opportunities to educate consumers enabling them to make smart consumer choices and reduce unnecessary litigation. Ultimately communities will be linked together to shut down scam operators before their powerful tentacles reach into the pockets of consumers," said McGraw.

Jill Miles, Deputy of Attorney General Darrell McGraw's Consumer Protection Division, and President of the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators for 2006-2008, spoke with the committee members about how the Consumer Protection Division currently operates. Miles gave an overview of how cases are selected for prosecution and an outline of current cases that the division is pursuing. She also discussed the top ten complaints received through Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division.

Frances Hughes, Chief Deputy Attorney General, discussed with the committee how the Attorney General's office is funded. "It is important to General McGraw that we cover the cost of our office and add money to the State's general revenue. We operate like a model law firm, and offer top legal services at a minimal cost to taxpayers," said Hughes.

"The Citizen Advisory Committee members are a direct line of communication to the Attorney General's office scattered throughout the communities and counties in West Virginia. The members will function as liaison between local citizens of their communities and the Attorney General's office making consumer resources more accessible," stated McGraw.

To find out how to contact the Consumer Advocate or Citizen Advisory member in your community contact Amy Saunders, Consumer Coordinator for the office of the West Virginia Attorney General, at 304-558-2021.